

5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This document has been prepared with input from and coordination with interested agencies, organizations, and individuals. Public involvement is a vital component of NEPA for vesting the public in the planning process and allowing for full environmental disclosure. Guidance for implementing public involvement is codified in 40 CFR 1506.6, thereby ensuring that federal agencies make a diligent effort to involve the public in preparing NEPA documents.

Public involvement for the King Range RMP is being conducted in two phases, as follows:

- Public scoping prior to NEPA analysis to obtain public input on issues and developing the proposed alternatives, and
- Public review and comment on the Draft RMP/EIS, which includes analyzing possible environmental impacts and identifying the final preferred alternative.

5.2 PUBLIC SCOPING ACTIVITIES

The objectives of public scoping prior to NEPA analysis are to:

- Invite agencies and the public to participate;
- Identify a preliminary list of environmental and socioeconomic issues or themes to address in the NEPA document; and
- Identify and eliminate issues determined to be insignificant or out of the RMP's scope.

5.2.1 Notice of Intent

The scoping process for the King Range RMP/EIS opened with publication of the notice of intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on October 11, 2002 (volume 67, no. 198). This NOI notified the public of the BLM's intent to develop a plan and associated NEPA document for those lands within the KRNCA boundary (Appendix I). The NOI also solicited public comments and participation.

5.2.2 Advertisements and Announcements

Newspaper advertisements, a press release, and informal flyers were issued or posted to notify the public of the project, to announce the five public scoping meetings, to request public comments, and to provide contact information. Press releases were sent to local and major northern California news media. Display advertisements were published in the San Francisco Weekly on October 30, 2002, and November 6, 2002, and in the Berkeley Daily Planet on October 29, 2002, and November 1, 3, 4, and 6, 2003 (Appendix J). Flyers announcing the public scoping meetings were posted in numerous locations, including KRNCA campgrounds, and shops and organizations in Shelter Cove, Whitethorn, Petrolia, Honeydew, Redway, Garberville, Eureka, Arcata, Mendocino, Berkeley, and San Francisco (see Scoping Report, BLM 2003, for full list of posting locations). In addition, BLM staff conducted an on-air

interview at KMUD radio station (Garberville) to publicize the scoping meetings and discuss various topics relating to the plan update.

5.2.3 Project Website

An informational website, www.ca.blm.gov/arcata/kingrange/King_Range_Plan.html, was made available to the public on November 4, 2002. It provided background information on the King Range, an outline of the planning process, a schedule of upcoming meetings, plus an opportunity for people to email comments directly to the BLM offices. It had received roughly 160 hits by December 31, 2002, and was updated in February 2003, with a link to read or download the published Scoping Report. In addition, a phone-in hotline was made available for comments or questions about the planning process: 707-825-2368. The hotline did not generate many calls; three or four people called asking for directions to public meetings held in November and a few called inquiring about the scoping process and how to submit written comments.

5.2.4 Planning Update Mailers

The BLM produced a special Planning Update mailer to announce the scoping effort. These were sent via direct mail on October 16, 2002. There were 229 people on the initial mailing list, and a total of 407 sent after additions were made to the mailing list. The Planning Update included background information on the King Range, a description and timeline for the upcoming planning process, dates and locations of the public scoping meetings, and contact information for getting public comments to the BLM. It also contained a “Visioning Sheet” as an insert, which people could fill out and mail back to the BLM with their comments. A copy of this mailer, with the “Visioning Sheet,” can be found in Appendix K. A second mailer was sent out in August 2003, detailing the results of the scoping process, and giving an overview of the proposed alternatives and planning schedule.

5.2.5 Public Scoping Meetings

Five public scoping meetings were held in November 2002, four in local communities close to the King Range and one in the San Francisco Bay Area: Garberville, CA on November 6; San Francisco, CA on November 7; Eureka, CA on November 13; Shelter Cove, CA on November 14; and Petrolia, CA on November 16. Four of the five meetings were held in the evening on weekdays, from 6-8pm, while the Petrolia meeting was held as a potluck in the afternoon on a Saturday, from 1-4pm. Attendance totaled over 120 individuals, with the breakdown per meeting as follows:

- Garberville: 24 people
- San Francisco: 2 people (bad winter storm that night)
- Eureka: 42 people
- Shelter Cove: 24 people
- Petrolia: 33 people

The meetings were held to gather information from the public on the future management of the KRNCA. Participants were asked questions on what they valued about these lands, what kinds of

activities or uses were important to them, and how they envisioned the area being managed in the future. The meetings utilized a PowerPoint presentation given by BLM staff on the KRNCA and planning process. Participants then split into small discussion groups to identify key themes and issues, and to suggest specific actions to meet desired conditions. The groups then reconvened to summarize their discussions, and go over the next steps in the planning process.

5.2.6 Public Scoping Results

To gather written comments, an official scoping comment period was open from October 15 to December 15, 2002, although the deadline was extended to December 31 to accommodate bad weather and the holiday season. Fifty-six “Visioning Sheets” were received, as well as forty-nine letters or emails with comments. All comments received either in writing or at public meetings are included in this analysis. Many of the submissions contained multiple comments on different topics. A total of over 1,200 comments were compiled from the meetings and the 105 written submissions received through December 31, 2002. These comments were recorded and categorized according to both source and topic. The database containing these comments is on file with the BLM and is available to the public upon request.

The clearest message from people who submitted comments during the scoping process was that they value the King Range for its primitive character—it represents a unique opportunity to experience the California coastline in a relatively undeveloped and natural state. This priority forms an overarching vision for the future of the KRNCA, and informs or relates to all other activities and management issues. The key issues identified by the public during this process fell into seven broad areas: the area’s primitive character and values, recreation use, transportation and access, education and interpretation, community support and involvement, resource conservation and management, and fire management.

A scoping report published in February 2003 details the results of public scoping. Information received through scoping was evaluated, verified, and incorporated into the RMP and EIS as appropriate.

5.2.7 Other Outreach and Cooperation

Humboldt County has been approached by the BLM regarding “cooperating agency” status. While the County has expressed interest, to date it has not established a formal relationship. Also the following agencies were notified of the planning process, and formal consultation is ongoing: the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), California Coastal Commission, NOAA Fisheries, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Efforts are underway to establish a Technical Review Committee with these agencies as well as the California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Forestry, California State Parks, and other appropriate agencies. The BLM’s Arcata Field Manager also contacted the Humboldt County Supervisors and the State’s Congressional Representative.

Staff from BLM and EDAW (BLM’s contractor assisting in the planning effort), as well as a number of community members, attended a three-day “Planning Concepts Training Workshop” in August 2002, introducing the participants to the BLM planning process. While this meeting was not a formal part of the scoping process, community participants provided input on planning and management concerns for the KRNCA. Thirty-two people attended this training, including members of the Mattole Restoration Council, Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District, Middle Mattole Conservancy, Lost Coast Properties,

Bear River Tribe of Rohnerville Rancheria, Mattole Salmon Group, Prosper Ridge Fire Rescue, Whitethorn Winery, and the Mattole Fire Safe Council.

The Bear River Tribe, Rohnerville Rancheria is the only federally recognized tribe for KRNCA issues: and while they did not contribute any specific scoping comments, they will continue to be consulted throughout the planning process. Members of this tribe did attend the three-day “Planning Concepts Training Workshop” in August 2002.

BLM staff also provided briefings or presentations for the Shelter Cove Property Owners Association (August 31, 2002), Garberville Rotary Club (November 5, 2002), and the Garberville Chamber of Commerce (November 6, 2002).

5.3 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT RMP/EIS

Following the official public scoping comment period, the next official public comment period will open upon publication of the Draft RMP/EIS in early 2004, although BLM welcomes public input at any time during the project.

The BLM will announce the availability of the Draft RMP/EIS by publishing notices of availability in local newspapers, the project website, and the *Federal Register*, which will open a formal 90-calendar-day public comment period. The Draft RMP/EIS will be available for review and/or download from the project website. It will also be available by request in a bound paper format or via CD ROM.

The Draft RMP/EIS will be widely distributed to elected officials, regulatory agencies, interested organizations, and members of the public. Copies will also be available at local libraries and by request. Another planning update mailer will be sent out in early 2004 to the KRNCA mailing list, announcing the availability of the Draft RMP/EIS.

During the 90-day public comment period, public meetings will be held in Eureka, Garberville, Petrolia, Shelter Cove, and the Bay Area.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, the Draft RMP/EIS will be revised. A Proposed Final RMP/Final EIS will then be published. The availability of the proposed document will be announced in the *Federal Register*, and a 30-calendar-day public protest period will follow. Anyone considering protesting the proposed plan may meet with the BLM to discuss his or her protest concerns.

At the conclusion of the public protest period, the BLM California State Director will evaluate and resolve any protests. After protests are resolved, the BLM California State Director will publish the approved RMP and Record of Decision. Its availability will be announced in the *Federal Register*.

5.4 LIST OF PREPARERS

This RMP/EIS has been prepared by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists from the BLM King Range NCA Office and Arcata Field Office. EDAW, Inc., an environmental consulting firm in San

Francisco, California, assisted the BLM in the preparation of these documents and in the planning process. These preparers are listed in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1: List of Preparers

NAME	POSITION	PLANNING ROLE
BLM Staff		
Lynda Roush	Field Manager	Field Manager
Dan Averill	Assistant Field Manager	Assistant Field Manager
Gary Pritchard-Peterson	King Range National Conservation Area Project Manager	King Range Manager, Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Team, Wilderness Study Team
Bob Wick	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	RMP Project Lead, Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Team, Wilderness Study Team, Visual Resources, Transportation
Sky Murphy	Planner	Assistant RMP Project Lead, Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Team
Scott Adams	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness Study Team, Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Team
Carol Sullivan	Interpretive Specialist	Interpretation/Environmental Education
Bruce Cann	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Team, Transportation
Paul Fritze	GIS Specialist	Mapping
Dave Fuller	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries, Riparian/Aquatic Resources, Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Team
Marlene Grangaard	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Consultation
Hank Harrison	Forester	Forestry, Special Forest Products
Charlotte Hawks	Realty Specialist	Lands, Rights of Way
Amy Krause	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Brad Job	Engineer	Facilities, Transportation, Air/Water Quality
Sam Morrison	Geologist	Geology, Soils
Tim Jones	Fire Management Officer	Fire/Fuels, Air Quality
Jennifer Wheeler	Botanist	Botany, Range Management, Invasive Weeds
Paul Roush	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Jeff Fontana	Public Affairs Officer	Public Outreach
John Price	Computer Specialist	Website Development
EDAW, Inc. Staff		
David Blau	Principal in Charge	Alternatives Development, QA/QC
Laura A. Watt	Project Manager	Project Manager, Public Outreach, Alternatives Development, Lands and Realty, Historical and Cultural Analysis
Steve Nachtman	Senior Recreation Planner	Recreation, Special Designations, Alternatives Development, QA/QC

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NAME	POSITION	PLANNING ROLE
Kevin Butterbaugh	Senior Environmental Planner	QA/QC Document Review
Kimberly Christensen	Public Involvement Program Coordinator	Public Outreach, Alternatives Development, QA/QC
Mark Farman	Senior Resource Planner and Economist	Socioeconomic Analysis
Steve Pavich	Resource Economist	Socioeconomic Analysis
Michael Morelli	Senior Recreation Planner	Recreation
Anne Lienemann	Recreation Planner	Recreation
Brian Ludwig	Senior Archeologist	Cultural Resources
Richard Nichols	Senior Biologist and Range Management Specialist	Grazing Resources
Mike Downs	Senior Social Scientist	Sociocultural Analysis
Jackson Underwood	Archeologist and Ethnographer	Sociocultural Analysis
Katrina Hardt	Environmental Planner	Transportation and Access
Megan Gosch	GIS Specialist	GIS Mapping
Ron LeValley	Mad River Biologists (subconsultant)	Terrestrial Ecology, Botany and Wildlife Biology, Alternatives Development
Alice Berg	Independent Contractor	Fisheries and Aquatic Biology
Bob Solari	Independent Contractor	Fire Management